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tations that carry one through nearly the whole range of literature bearing on social progress, it is sure to prove of great value to all advanced students of sociology.

Part I is given to a discussion of "Human Nature and Social Progress," and here the author takes his stand with those psychologists who hold that "the self is a function of the will, and is socially determined." "We are a bundle of potential selves," he concludes, "and attain unity through unified activity." In the determination of the self, first place is given to the social environment. "Physical heredity seems to furnish the vase, but social heredity pours in the contents."

In Part II "The Concept of Progress" is discussed, also certain tests that have been proposed, such as increasing population, increasing health and longevity, wealth and the improvement of morals.

Part III is given to "The Prophets of Progress" and their interpretations. The prophets are classified as materialistic, biological, institutional and ideological. In this part his "middle course" policy is especially prominent, "not from a timorous habit of 'playing safe,' but as the result of accepting the challenge of what seems to be fact." The extreme selectionists, eugenists, and racialists are severely criticized; so, too, those who insist on the moral and social value of war.

Part IV is given to "Implications and Conclusions." The outcome of the whole discussion leads the author to emphasize the possibility that society may become a "real *Gesamtpersönlichkeit*," creating and recreating, not only the conditions of social life, but social life itself. This it is to do chiefly by means of social education.

L. M. BRISTOL.

West Virginia University.

In these Latter Days. By HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT. (Chicago: The Blakely-Oswald Company. 1917. Pp. vi, 548.)

The recent death of the author of the present volume at his home in San Francisco has removed a notable figure from the life of the community. His several books have not contributed so much to his reputation as has the great collection of books and manuscripts dealing with Western American history which he made and deposited in the library of the University of California.

The volume under review contains the author's impressions upon a variety of topics touching the political and economic conditions of present day life in the United States. One misses the calm judgments

of scholarly age and finds instead its pessimism and prejudice. The Japanese, the Democratic party and President Wilson seem particularly to call forth the condemnation of the author, and the city of San Francisco is evidently dear to his heart. In justice it should be said that the book was written before the United States declared war, and that its pessimism is moderated by the conclusion that everything is not altogether bad; there is a thin ray of hope in the fact that things are "not so bad as they might be."

EDWARD ELLIOTT.

University of California.

Historical Backgrounds of the Great War. By FRANK J. ADKINS. (New York: R. M. McBride. 1918. Pp. 292.)

The Soul of Democracy. By EDWARD HOWARD GRIGGS. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1918. Pp. 128.)

Man's Supreme Inheritance. By F. MATHIAS ALEXANDER. (E. P. Dutton and Company. 1918.)

While we are living under the shadow of the greatest world tragedy in the history of mankind, many books are being written about it, and most of them give us ideas and thoughts which are more or less valuable. Professor Adkins in four chapters covers the underlying causes of the conflict. He points out those problems and rivalries which have arisen during the past three centuries. He shows how they steadily increased in importance until they culminated in hostilities in 1914. Professor Adkins aims rather at provoking thought than of imparting exact information, and wins in his effort to make readers of his book think and inquire for themselves about the war and its effects.

Edward Howard Griggs, in his *Soul of Democracy*, covers twenty-two chapters in less than 150 pages. Each of these chapters is of sufficient importance to have space enough for a volume. In fact whole volumes have been written on each chapter during the past year. He covers feminism, religion, education, literature and socialism. The author believes that our education has been too academic and too much molded by tradition. He says: "If there is one field where we could reasonably expect to find pure democracy, it is in our higher educational institutions. In a college or university, where a group of young men and women, and a group of older men and women are gathered apart, out of the severer economic struggle, dedicated to ideal ends: there, surely, we could expect pure democracy in organization and re-